

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed December 8, 2009. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-14 are currently pending in the application. Claim 11 has been cancelled by this amendment and one or more pertinent features of this claim have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 12 and 13. Claims 1, 12 and 13 have been amended herein and are recited in independent form. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the present amendment. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claim 11 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of independent base claim 1 and any intervening claims. In view thereof, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 11. Likewise, the subject matter of claim 11 has been incorporated into independent claims 12 and 13 and, as a result thereof, claims 12 and 13 are believed allowable over the art of record.

Allowability of Dependent Claims

Moreover, since claims 2-10 and claim 14 depend from claims 1 and 13, respectively, and contain all the limitations of claims 1 and 13, for reasons analogous to those presented above regarding the patentability of claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-10 and claim 14 are also allowable over the art of record.

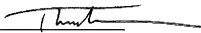
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) that may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s), to Deposit Account No. 50-5016.

Respectfully submitted,


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